

OPINION 1655

***Curculio viridicollis* Fabricius, 1792 (currently *Phyllobius viridicollis*; Insecta, Coleoptera): specific name conserved, and *Rhyncolus* Germar, 1817: *Curculio ater* Linnaeus, 1758 designated as the type species**

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers:
 - (a) the specific name *cloropus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Curculio cloropus*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
 - (b) all previous designations of type species for the nominal genus *Rhyncolus* Germar, 1817 are hereby set aside and *Curculio ater* Linnaeus, 1758 is designated as the type species.
- (2) The name *Rhyncolus* Germar, 1817 (gender: masculine), type species by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(b) above *Curculio ater* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *ater* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Curculio ater* (specific name of the type species of *Rhyncolus* Germar, 1817);
 - (b) *viridicollis* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Curculio viridicollis*.
- (4) The name *cloropus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Curculio cloropus* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2678

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Curculio viridicollis* Fabricius, 1792 and the designation of *Curculio ater* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of *Rhyncolus* Germar, 1817 was received from Mr R.T. Thompson (*The Natural History Museum, London*) on 12 August 1988. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 46: 241–243 (December 1989). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

An opposing comment from Dr M.A. Alonso-Zarazaga (*Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid, Spain*), together with a note by the Commission Secretariat, was published in BZN 47: 213–214 (September 1990). The Secretariat's note reported a comment in support from Dr J. Péricart (*Montereau, France*), an author of the curculionid section of the *Faune de France* (1989).

Decision of the Commission

On 6 March 1991 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 46: 242. At the close of the voting period on 6 June 1991 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 22: Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Minelli, Mroczkowski, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 5: Bayer, Martins de Souza, Starobogatov, Thompson and Trjapitzin.

Dupuis abstained: 'Je m'abstiens et déplore que l'avis de Péricart (BZN 47: 214) au lieu d'être publié comme un 'comment' de cet auteur soit résumé par le Secrétariat'. [Editorial note: Dr Péricart's letter was as reported, but concluded 'I do not think it necessary to include any comment by myself in the BZN...'; it was for this reason that his letter was abstracted].

Thompson commented that citing a 1938 work [cf. BZN 46: 241, para. 2] as the main source of references for usage of *viridicollis* Fabricius, 1792 'clearly demonstrates the little use of the name' in the last 50 years, and the requirements of Article 79c(2) had in his view not been met.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

ater, *Curculio*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 385.

cloropus, *Curculio*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 385.

Rhyncolus Germar, 1817, *Magazin der Entomologie*, vol. 2, p. 340.

viridicollis, *Curculio*, Fabricius, 1792, *Entomologia Systematica emendata et aucta*, vol. 1, p. 469.